Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
2 May 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Second session
Geneva, 23 April–4 May 2018

Specific regional issues and implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Working paper submitted by the Group of Arab States

Addendum

The Group of Arab States expresses its regret at the working paper that was submitted by the United States of America on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.33), because it sets out positions that go against the 1995 resolution on the Middle and set back, rather than advance, international efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. In response, the Group of Arab States of would like to state the following:

(a) The argument that the responsibility of the sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East includes "establishing regional conditions" is contrary to the resolution, which is the basis for the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to the established facts and agreed-upon commitments.

(b) It is wrong to blame the Arab States and hold them responsible for the failure to convene the postponed conference. This allegation is completely baseless and does not take into account the full cooperation of and the efforts that have been made by the Arab States, as set out in the working paper that the Group submitted to the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2015/WP.33), and fails to reflect the fact that the Arab Group has continued to call for the conference to be convened.

(c) It is unacceptable to set preconditions for the commencement of negotiations on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and to introduce issues that are not within the scope of the Treaty and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Doing so is merely an attempt to continue protecting Israel, which is not a party to the Treaty.

(d) The Review Conference continues to be the appropriate forum for addressing this crucial issue, which is of vital importance to the supreme interests and national security of the Arab States. In that connection, the Group reaffirms

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that the indefinite extension of the Treaty was based on the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and that it was the three depository States that co-sponsored the resolution and pledged to implement as part of their efforts to secure the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences reaffirmed the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and stressed that the resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. No State can abrogate obligations that have been agreed upon at previous Review Conferences.

The fact that one of the depositaries of the Treaty has adopted such a position will affect the credibility of the Treaty. Neither the outcomes arrived at by the Preparatory Committee nor the Chair's factual summary should be aligned with or show bias towards a position that is incompatible with the mandate set out in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the outcomes of the Review Conferences, particularly given that there is an international consensus in support of the commitment to implementing the resolution and on the need for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to develop practical measures for implementation of the resolution. We acknowledge the clearly positive positions that were expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of African States, the New Agenda Coalition and the other nuclear-weapon States, in particular the Russian Federation, China and France, as well as the European Union and many countries from all geographical regions, including Western countries, and we express our appreciation for the credibility and objectivity that they have demonstrated. Accordingly, the Group of Arab States rejects the substance of the working paper that was submitted by the United States.